

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 349

H. P. 268

House of Representatives, February 6, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Huber of Falmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT Relating to Discharges and Emissions From Nuclear Generating
Facilities.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

35 MRSA c. 269 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 269

NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES

SUBCHAPTER 1

EMISSIONS REPORTING

§ 3331. Purpose

The Legislature finds that nuclear power plants routinely release radioactive materials to the environment. These radioactive materials are generally released in a controlled manner and within the limits established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Some of these releases have been unplanned, unscheduled and inadvertent. On occasion, they exceed technical specification limits. No firm evidence exists that these radioactive emissions do or do not present a genetic or long-term health risk. Most authorities agree that it should be

assumed that radiation at any dose level has a finite risk. The Legislature finds, therefore, that the public welfare will be better protected if the public is fully informed on any release of radioactive materials to the environment.

§ 3332. Reports to the Commissioner of Human Services

The president of any nuclear power generating facility in Maine, or his designee, shall provide the Commissioner of Human Services with a report of all radioactive materials released to the environment. The report shall be a duplicate of any report required by the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10.

§ 3333. Reports by the Commissioner of Human Services

The Commissioner of Human Services, or his designee, shall review and study the reports, if any, and consolidate them for distribution to the Public Utilities Commission, state agencies and public officials concerned with nuclear energy and interested members of the public. The report shall include an abstract written in a manner that is easily understood by the general public.

Report of releases which exceed technical specification limits or result in overexposure to plant personnel or members of the public shall be reviewed expeditiously by the Commissioner of Human Services, or his designee, and a report shall be forwarded to the individuals and agencies as provided in this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It is the intent of this bill to provide citizens of Maine with factual information regarding the quantity and nature of radioactive products released from nuclear power plants operating in the State of Maine. These releases may or may not have an impact on their immediate health, long-term health or genetic future. However, since the degree of risk is uncertain, it is essential that those who bear the risk be as informed as possible.

The Operating Units Status Report indicates that nuclear power plants have released radioactive materials inadvertently and accidentally and in excess of technical specification limits. In some cases, releases occur when monitoring instruments are inoperable or not calibrated.